Selecting an appropriate photograph for page one of this august publication exercises the editor perhaps more than it should. Recent editions have tended to reflect our current preoccupation with the conversion of the Undercroft now, we are told, in its final stages of completion. Mercifully, the splendid new lavatory facilities are already available for people coming to the church for evening concerts and Sunday services and the access lift for disabled people will be in place before too long. Michael Beckett, Church Warden at St George’s until the end of April and still very much the Undercroft’s guiding hand, has written about the project in greater detail on pages ten and eleven.

But what of the photograph? Angelo Hornak’s timeless shot of the tranquil interior is a timely and most welcome reminder of what St George’s is in the context of noisy building work beneath our feet and all around us. Hanover Square itself has been a building site for a number of years now and is likely to remain so until the eventual opening of the Bond Street Elizabeth Line station. But nothing had prepared us for the fact that most of the western side of St George Street south of Maddox Street is currently enveloped in scaffolding. The attendant road works have not only added to the cacophony but rendered vehicular access to the church during the ‘working week’ even more trying than usual. Which is not for a moment to suggest we are innocent bystanders in this mayhem. Our abortive second – or was it third – attempt to get an electrical cable across Maddox Street to power the ‘new’ Undercroft involved closing the street for a whole week. And yes, the whole exercise has to be repeated in mid-November but with this time, we hope, better results.

For loftier matters, please turn the page noting in particular the Rector’s trenchant words on ‘balance’ and the state of the National Church in its absence.
A

s we approach the seem-
ing mad rush and frenetic
lead up to Christmas - a
time of year for charity
and kindness and still for a num-
ber of people, for religion too - I
am thinking about the idea of
balance. How to spread out and
spread around the spirit of gen-
erosity and thinking of others
that becomes so compressed and
ultimately fleeting as soon as
Christmas day is come and gone.

Traditionally one of the gifts of
Anglicanism has been built
around a spirit of balance, in-
formed and influenced as we
have been by the humane bal-
canced life of Benedictine com-
munities. This used to be one of
the main attractions of a broad
Church of England, and our sense
of balance was allegedly part of
our genius. Sadly, perhaps even
scandalously, the checks and
balances of the Church of Eng-
land have been gradually eroded
by a creeping managerialism
(though, as always with the C of
E, conforming to already outdat-
ed ideas). The Welbyfication of
the C of E, though it all started
long before him.

We cherish the three-fold minis-
try of Deacons, Priests and Bish-
ops inherited from the early days
of the Church - and all Priests
and Bishops need to be mindful
of their Diocesan role of service,
and the importance of attending
to administration. However, we
seem now to have forgotten the
wisdom of appointing holy and
wise Bishops with gifts of leader-
ship and inspirers of the people
of God and people with vision.
The ‘managers’ really should be
those who flourish as ‘Number
2s’. So the problem we face is
that we are increasingly ‘led’
by ‘Number 2s’ who might be good administrators and man-
gers but cannot cut it as
‘Number 1s’. And this lack of
leadership has led to the disas-
trous collective failure of the
House of Bishops in recent
years in matters such as human
sexuality. It seemed obvious to
many of us when Civil Partner-
ships were introduced that
there should have been an au-
thorised service of celebration
for couples in this position. And
I note that in recent years
there are Catholic bishops who
are making a similar call. Had
this happened, then the heat
might have been taken out of the
debate, a real pastoral need met, and the C of E al-
lowed time to discuss the much
more problematic and compli-
cated issue of Same Sex Mar-
riage. The point is that rather
than ‘leading’ on whatever the
issues might be, they are in-
stead ‘managed’.

Perhaps with a more ‘balanced’
leadership we would not be in
such a lamentable position as
the National Church. Time was
when the three most senior ap-
pointments in the Church
aimed at a balance between
Evangelical, Broad Church, Tra-
ditional and Liberal Catholic.
Gone. Time was when there
was an eye to appoint learned
and gifted theologians to the
bench of Bishops - not least to
Durham but also to Oxford and
Winchester. Gone. The ‘balance’
is now heavily weighted in favour of a certain
sort of Evangelicalism. And now
of course, gender trumps ever-
thing.

What about our spiritual life?
How balanced is our relation-
ship with God? How do we en-
joy the presence of the Holy
Trinity? One lovely prayer that
perhaps captures the sense of
balance is by a former Dean of
St Paul’s, John Donne (1571-
1631):

Bring us, O Lord God, at our
last awakening into the house
and gate of heaven, to enter
into that gate and dwell in
that house, where there shall
be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light; no noise
nor silence, but one equal mu-
cic; no fears nor hopes, but one
equal possession; no ends nor
beginnings, but one equal ete-
rnity: in the habitations of thy
majesty and glory, world with-
out end. Amen.

At the beginning of August, we
welcomed Jake Thompson
to our team of Vergers. On Page
7, Jake has written a short in-
troductory autobiographical
note.

From Monday 29th October - the
day after the clocks go back -
our weekday opening hours will
be 8.30am - 4.30pm. Over the
years I have noticed that rela-
tively few people come into St
George’s between 8.00 and
8.30am but when locking up at
4.00pm there are very often
people in the building whose
visit has to be cut short. The
Vestry hours have been similar-
ly adjusted.

The All Souls Requiem for de-
parted loved ones will be cel-
brated on Friday 2nd November
at 1.10pm. Please inform one
of the Vergers if you wish to
include names for prayer. Their
contact details will be found on
the back page. One person we
shall remember will be David
Prioritise: divide your ideas into three categories - ‘Quick Wins’: things that can be introduced and make an impact quickly. ‘Medium range’: things that will require preparation. ‘Long range’: things which will need an investment of significant time and resources.

Do please join us if you can in the Vestry between 10.00am and midday.

Christmas Services
The Parish Carol Service (the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols) is to take place this year on Sunday 16th December at 6.00pm followed by refreshments. A good preparation for Christmas and an ideal occasion to ask friends along. We always invite people from local hotels and embassies and shops and businesses, as this is a memorable celebration for the whole community. In addition, I also invite members of various organisations to which I am Chaplain (The Royal Society of St George, the Gastronomes, the Royal Society of Musicians, and others) who are most welcome.

Once again there will be a service for families and children on Christmas Eve Monday 24th December at 4.30pm. Solemn Sung Eucharist of the Vigil of Christmas, this year will be the first with full choir, and will include the singing of children’s carols around the crib. The sermon will be short and geared towards children, and the style of worship relaxed, although still with a normal sung setting of the Mass.

I would encourage as many as are able to come to the main celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, which is the glorious 11.00am Sung Eucharist on Christmas Day. Please do invite your family and visitors to join you for this, or the Christmas Eve service if you find Christmas Day impracticable.

There are daily prayers in church, Monday - Thursday at 12.10pm. The Midday Office is said on most days except when the Eucharist is celebrated on Fridays and Saints’ Days. Please join us if you are in the area.

With the completion - finally - of work on the conversion of the Undercroft, we are once again planning to present Morning Calm at 8.45am on weekday mornings during academic term times. This is a short meditative ‘service’ starting with seven or eight minutes of (usually) piano music, played by postgraduate students from the Royal College of Music, followed by a time for private silent recollection and concluding with one or two short prayers. Further details will be published in due course.

Holy Cocktail Hour Open House - all are welcome for drinks on Wednesdays 28th November and 16th January at 6.30pm until 8pm at the Rectory, 21a Down Street W1J 7AW - entrance in Brick Street opposite the tapas bar - top bell. This follows the 5.45pm celebration of Holy Communion at St George’s.

Thursday 6th December
700pm
ST GEORGE’S, HANOVER SQUARE

Messiah HWV 56

Our annual performance of Messiah is now a firm fixture in the Christmas calendar. Simon Williams will conduct the Choir of St George’s, the London Handel Orchestra and star soloists, including three past finalists of the Handel Singing Competition.

LAUREN LODGE-CAMPBELL soprano
ALEXANDRA GIBSON mezzo-soprano
ALEXANDER SPRAGUE tenor
TREVOR BOWES bass-baritone

LONDON HANDEL ORCHESTRA
CHOIR OF ST GEORGE’S, HANOVER SQUARE

SIMON WILLIAMS conductor

TICKETS: £55, £45, £40, £15, £12
(from London Handel Festival)
Mayfair Organ Concerts

A weekly series of lunchtime organ concerts
now beginning its sixth year
at St George’s, Hanover Square & the Grosvenor Chapel.
Every Tuesday 1.10-1.50pm
Free admission—retiring collection

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<td>Grosvenor Chapel</td>
<td>Lukas Hasler (Graz, Austria)</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>St George’s</td>
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<td>Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
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<td>Samuel Ali (Christ Church, Chelsea)</td>
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<td>George de Voil (St James, Sussex Gardens)</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>Grosvenor Chapel</td>
<td>Simon Williams (St George’s)</td>
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Thursday 22 November
7.30pm
ST GEORGE’S, HANOVER SQUARE
Handel Singing Competition Finalists’ Showcase

The London Handel Festival’s annual showcase of the finalists from the Handel Singing Competition takes place earlier than usual this year, on St Cecilia’s Day, appropriately, bringing you the usual mouth-watering selection of Handel and other baroque composers sung by four prize-winners from the 2018 Competition.

Se bramate d’amare chi vi sdegna Serse HWV 40
Tu se il cor Giulio Cesare HWV 17 O cari parollette Orlando HWV 31
Vedi l’ape che ingegnosa Berenice HWV 38
Che val pensar, folle pensier HWV 184
Scoglio d’immota fronte Scipione HWV 20
Tra sospetti, affetti, e timori Rodelinda HWV 19
Volate più dei venti Muzio Scevola HWV 13
Where shall I fly? Hercules HWV 60
Love in her eyes sits playing; As when the dove; Happy we! Acis and Galatea HWV 49

LAUREN LODGE-CAMPBELL soprano
EMMA STANNARD mezzo-soprano
DANIEL MULLANEY tenor
ED BALLARD bass-baritone
LAURENCE CUMMINGS harpsichord

TICKETS: £12 (£10 Friends) unreserved seating
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
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| **Thursday 1st November** | All Saints’ Day  
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Friday 2nd November**   | All Souls’ Day  
1.10pm Requiem BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 4th November**  | Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector  
*Missa Simile est regnum coelorum* (Victoria)  
*In spiritu humilitatis* (Croce)  
*Fugue in C major* (J S Bach) |
| **Monday 5th November**  | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 6th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 7th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Thursday 8th November**| 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 9th November**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 11th November** | Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity  
Remembrance Sunday  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
10.55am Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector  
*Requiem* (Fauré)  
*Prelude et Fugue sur le nom d’Alain* (Duruflé) |
| **Monday 12th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 13th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 14th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Thursday 15th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 16th November**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 18th November** | Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Dr Alan McCormack  
*Missa Brevis* (Mozart)  
*O salutaris hostia* (Rossini)  
*Toccata* (Gigout) |
| **Monday 19th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 20th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 21st November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Thursday 22nd November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 23rd November**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 25th November** | Sunday next before Advent  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff  
*Missa sine nomine* (Hassler)  
*Lift up your heads* (Handel)  
*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 661 (Bach) |
| **Monday 26th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 27th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 28th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Thursday 29th November** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 30th November**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 2nd December**  | First Sunday in Advent  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist  
(attended by the Réunion des Gastronomes)  
Celebrant: The Rector  
Preacher: The Revd Keith Powell  
(Chaplain of the Worshipful Company of Cooks)  
*Missa sine nomine* (Hassler)  
*Laetentur coeli* (Bach)  
*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 661 (Bach) |
| **Monday 3rd December**  | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 4th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm No service |
| **Thursday 6th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 7th December**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
| **Sunday 9th December**  | Second Sunday in Advent  
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector  
*Missa Che fà hoggì il mio sole* (Allegri)  
*Laetentur coeli* (Byrd)  
*Vox Dicentis* (Simon Preston) |
| **Monday 10th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Tuesday 11th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Wednesday 12th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer  
5.45pm No service |
| **Thursday 13th December** | 12.10pm Midday Prayer |
| **Friday 14th December**  | 1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said) |
Sunday 16th December
Third Sunday in Advent
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate: The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Missa Iste confessor (Palestrina)
This is the record of John (Gibbons)
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
BWV 659 (Bach)
6.00pm Parish Carol Service

Monday 17th December
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 18th December
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 19th December
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 20th December
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 21st December
St Thomas, the Apostle
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 23rd December
Fourth Sunday in Advent
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate: The Rector
Preacher: The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Sancta et immaculata (Guerrero)
How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer)

Monday 24th December
Christmas Eve
4.30pm Solemn First Vigil Mass of Christmas
for families and children
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
A Christmas Mass (Ronald Corp)
Silent Night ((Gruber arr Cashmore)
In dulci jubilo BWV 729 (Bach)

Tuesday 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
St Nicholas Mass (Haydn)
A child is born in Bethlehem (Scheidt
arr Willcocks)
This lovely lady (Kelly)
Noël Suisse (Daquin)

Wednesday 26th - Saturday 29th December
Church closed - no services

Sunday 30th December
Sunday after Christmas
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria)
O magnum mysterium (Victoria)
Toccata in F (Buxtehude)

Monday 1st January
Church closed - no service

Tuesday 2nd January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 3rd January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 4th January
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 6th January
The Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff
Messe Solennelle (Langlais)
Videntes stelam (Poulenc)
Final from Triptyque (Langlais)

Monday 7th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 8th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 9th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 10th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 11th January
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 13th January
First Sunday after Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Communion Service in A minor (Darke)
Here is the little door (Howells)

Monday 14th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 15th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 16th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 17th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 18th January
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 20th January
Second Sunday after Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Ego flos campi (Padilla)
Omens de Saba venient (Handl)
Prelude and Fugue in A (J S Bach)

Monday 21st January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 22nd January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 23rd January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 24th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 25th January
Conversion of St Paul
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 27th January
Third Sunday after Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis St Joannis de Deo
(Handl)
Beati quorum via (Stanford)

Monday 28th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 29th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 30th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 31st January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 1st February
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 3rd February
The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Candlemas) - transferred
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Communion Service in C (Stanford)
Light of the World (Elgar)

Monday 4th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 5th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 6th February
The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II (1952)
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 7th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 8th February
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 10th February
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrate & Preacher: The Rector
Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams)
O taste and see (Vaughan Williams)
Choral Song (S S Wesley)

Monday 11th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 12th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer
Wednesday 13th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 14th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 15th February
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 17th February
Septuagesima
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis in D minor (Mozart)
Lord, I trust thee (Handel)

Monday 18th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 19th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 20th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 21st February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 22nd February
1.10pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Sunday 24th February
St Matthias, the Apostle
8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: TBA
Missa Brevis (le Fleming)
Give us the wings of faith (Bullock)

Monday 25th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 26th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 27th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion BCP (said)

Thursday 28th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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Jake Thompson

When our long-serving Verger, Seamus O’Hare expressed a wish to reduce his hours back in 2016, a review of the role concluded that St George’s needed a verging team of two to ensure staffing a building that is often open for more than 70 hours a week. Richard Buck joined us in October 2017. Seamus retired in December that year and in August 2018 we were joined by Jake Thompson.

Jake writes about himself as follows:

Jake is from the riverside town of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex where he spent his late teens and early twenties working as a labourer, care worker, and maintenance worker. A devout Christian and regular attendee of the parish church, he began to sense a calling to the priesthood. After informing his parish priest at the time, he moved to north London to join the North London Pastoral Assistant Scheme in 2013.

As pastoral assistant of St Mary’s church, Tottenham, Jake worked side by side with the rector. He helped to attend to the pastoral needs of the congregation through home and hospital visits, leading infant Sunday school, assisting in the parish youth ministry and even preaching on occasions. Jake also gained the experience of coordinating the church’s winter night shelter, which is part of the larger Haringey Winter Night Shelter Scheme.

After two years in Tottenham, Jake moved into the vicarage of Holy Innocents, Hornsey as a lodger, and joined an access course in theology at St Mellitus College, London. Meanwhile he took on two jobs: one as a support worker and the other as assistant coordinator of the Haringey Winter Night Shelter, working to tackle homelessness with several churches of various denominations in the Haringey and Enfield area.

Jake completed his course in two years and moved with the former rector of Holy Innocents into the parish vicarage of St Michael’s Croydon, where, once again, he was appointed as a pastoral assistant. There, he met many new challenges, different from St Mary’s and Holy Innocents; one of which was to help use the church to accommodate child refugees from Calais for one day while they were being brought into the UK to be united with their families. The event inspired a visit from former Archbishop Rowan Williams which took place on Jake’s birthday.

Jake met his fiancée, Charlotte, in St Michael’s Croydon and the two of them will be getting married in the same church next year. At the moment he is less inclined towards the priesthood and would like to settle down with his future wife. He can play the guitar and is a fan of 20th century retro music. As a Christian, he enjoys studying the bible, apologetics, and debating. He is currently enjoying a book on how scholars date the books of the Old Testament.

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As pastoral assistant of St Mary’s church, Tottenham, Jake worked side by side with the rector. He helped to attend to the pastoral needs of the congregation through home and hospital visits, leading infant Sunday school, assisting in the parish youth ministry and even preaching on occasions. Jake also gained the experience of coordinating the church’s winter night shelter, which is part of the larger Haringey Winter Night Shelter Scheme.

After two years in Tottenham, Jake moved into the vicarage of Holy Innocents, Hornsey as a lodger, and joined an access course in theology at St Mellitus College, London. Meanwhile he took on two jobs: one as a support worker and the other as assistant coordinator of the Haringey Winter Night Shelter, working to tackle homelessness with several churches of various denominations in the Haringey and Enfield area.

Jake completed his course in two years and moved with the former rector of Holy Innocents into the parish vicarage of St Michael’s Croydon, where, once again, he was appointed as a pastoral assistant. There, he met many new challenges, different from St Mary’s and Holy Innocents; one of which was to help use the church to accommodate child refugees from Calais for one day while they were being brought into the UK to be united with their families. The event inspired a visit from former Archbishop Rowan Williams which took place on Jake’s birthday.

Jake met his fiancée, Charlotte, in St Michael’s Croydon and the two of them will be getting married in the same church next year. At the moment he is less inclined towards the priesthood and would like to settle down with his future wife. He can play the guitar and is a fan of 20th century retro music. As a Christian, he enjoys studying the bible, apologetics, and debating. He is currently enjoying a book on how scholars date the books of the Old Testament.

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When our long-serving Verger, Seamus O’Hare expressed a wish to reduce his hours back in 2016, a review of the role concluded that St George’s needed a verging team of two to ensure staffing a building that is often open for more than 70 hours a week. Richard Buck joined us in October 2017. Seamus retired in December that year and in August 2018 we were joined by Jake Thompson.

Jake writes about himself as follows:

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Sunday 4th November
All Saints Sunday
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Victoria Missa O quam gloriosum
Victoria O quam gloriosum
Couperin Dialogue sur les grands jeux (Messe pour les Couvents)

Sunday 11th November
Remembrance Sunday
10.55am Sung Eucharist
Fauré Requiem (with orchestra)

Sunday 18th November
Second Sunday before Advent
11.00 Confirmation with the Bishop of London
Mozart Missa Brevis in C K 258
James MacMillan I have sought Thee and Thy face
Theodore Salomé Grand Chœur

Sunday 25th November
The Feast of Christ the King
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Alonso Lobo Missa O Rex gloriae
Byrd Atoilite portas
Percy Whitlock Exultemus

Sunday 2nd December
Advent Sunday
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Plainsong The Advent Prose
Byrd Mass for Five Voices
Byrd Laetentur coeli
Andrew Carter Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Sunday 9th December
The Second Sunday of Advent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Magalhães Missa O soberana luz
Francisco Guerrero Cantite tuba
J.S.Bach Nun komm, der heiden heiland BWV 661

Tuesday 11th December
7.00pm Community Carol Service

Sunday 16th December
Third Sunday of Advent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Andrea Gabrieli Missa Brevis
Sweetinck Gaude et laetare
J.S.Bach Fugue on the Magnificat

Sunday 23rd December
Fourth Sunday of Advent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Victoria Missa Brevis
Victoria Ne timeas Maria
J.S.Bach Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Monday 24th December
Christmas Eve
11.00pm Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Haydn Missa Brevis in F major
Lauridsen O magnum mysterium
Tavener Christmas Proclamation
J.S.Bach In dulci jubilo

Tuesday 25th December
Christmas Day
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Victoria Missa O magnum mysterium
Sweetinck Hodie Christus natus est

Sunday 30th December
Sunday after Christmas
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mass with Cantor & organ

Sunday 6th January
The Epiphany of our Lord
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mozart Spatzenmesse K220
Jacobus Clemens non Papa Magi veniunt ab oriente
Peter Cornelius The Three Kings

Sunday 13th January
The Baptism of Christ
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Byrd Mass for Four Voices
Marenzio Tribus Miraculis

Sunday 20th January
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Monteverdi Mass for Four Voices
Purcell Thy word is a lantern

Sunday 27th January
The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Lassus Missa super Frère Thibault
Guerrero Hoc est praeceptum meum

Sunday 3rd February
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Stanford Communion Service in C
Eccard Maria das Jungfräulein
Stanford Nunc Dimittis in G

Sunday 10th February
Fourth Sunday before Lent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Palestrina Missa Istae Confessor
Philip Moore Antiphon

Sunday 17th February
Third Sunday before Lent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Gabriel Jackson Missa St Margaretae
Stanford Beati quorum via

Sunday 24th February
Second Sunday before Lent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Victoria Missa Trahe me post te
Giacques de Wert Ascende Jesu in naviculam
Judith Standing, Headteacher, writes:

We have had an excellent start to our new academic year with lots of very exciting events and activities taking place.

We began the year with a whole school book project. Each class retold the story in their own way with lots of writing and artwork. We made some fabulous displays. We then followed this with Roald Dahl Day. Each class learnt one of Roald Dahl’s poems and practised performing them. These were then showcased for parents on National Poetry Day in October. We also had a famous poet visit us in our classes and share his poems with us.

Our faith group has met this term. This meeting is led by our pupils who are our RE leaders. They shared what work they had been doing in RE and talked through the activities, including drama, debating, drawing, writing and art activities. This term our topics are all aligned to Christianity and include things such as ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ and ‘The Liturgy’.

Andrew from ‘The Passage’, a homeless charity in Westminster visited us and talked to the children about how they could help homeless people. The ‘Just Enough’ charity also visited Year 5 and Year 6.

We have been on various trips so far this term, including Hyde Park Lookout centre, National Maritime Museum, and Hampton Court Palace. We have run a number of parent workshops this term: maths, phonics reading, wellbeing, assessment and curriculum. We have also held our termly parent meetings.

So as you can see we have had a very busy start to the year. We are now looking forward to our harvest thanksgiving service and then a week’s rest at half term.

If you would like to visit us, we would love to see you. Please just make an appointment at the school office.

Judith Standing
Headteacher
The undercroft of St George’s we believe was constructed as part of the church in 1724 with a view to housing a free school, as outlined in the New Churches in London and Westminster Act of 1710, which set up a Commission to build fifty new churches (known as Queen Anne Churches) in the West End and the City of London. In the end only ten new churches were ever built between 1713 and 1730, and nine other existing churches were rebuilt or modified by the Commission. St George’s Hanover Square is the only one of the churches architect John James built on his own account, but he was also joint architect with Nicholas Hawksmoor for St John, Horsleydown and St Luke, Old Street.

Hawksmoor built four of the other churches, Christ Church, Spitalfields, St Anne’s, Limehouse, St George’s Bloomsbury, and St George in the East. Thomas Archer two, St John’s, Smith Square and St Paul’s, Deptford, and James Gibb one, St Mary le Strand.

John James’s design included entrances along Maddox Street and on the south side of the church which allowed a certain amount of daylight to enter the undercroft. However, for reasons we don’t fully understand, but lack of daylight was possibly one of them, a free school never opened and the space was used for storage for most of the next three centuries. Our first Church school opened in 1742 in South Street, on a site adjacent to the present school.

During the inter war years of the twentieth century the undercroft space was used for wine storage by a local vintner. This continued until the Bishop of London received too many complaints about the noise, and this ended his occupation. During the Second World War the undercroft was used to store all the stained glass from the East windows which were removed in early 1940, and not reinstated until after the war ended. From the early 1950s the space was again rented out, with Sotheby’s being the tenant for most of this period until they vacated in 2013.

Thought and plans as to how to re-integrate the space into the life of the church have been ongoing since 2007, and Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, drew up some plans in 2009, but at the time we were about to undertake the refurbishment of the interior of the church, and install a new organ, so funds were not available. When Sotheby’s finally gave notice in 2012, we had to make some decisions, whether to remain as landlords and find new tenants, or embark on plans to engage the space with the mission action plan of the church.

New plans were drawn up by Colin Kerr, Church architect, and the decision to improve the church facilities with a new lavatory block under the portico, a green room /large meeting room and restaurant facilities was taken by the PCC in 2016, with building works starting in July of last year.

The building works are now nearing completion. The new lavatory block reopened at the beginning of October, and the rest of the first phase fit out, including a new lift which will provide disabled access to both the church and undercroft should be completed by the year end. In the new year the second phase fit out of the restaurant and bar area will commence, and we are hoping to be fully open and operational in the late spring of next year.

The new facilities should greatly enhance the life of the church, both in terms of far better amenities for all church users, and when the construction costs are paid, an additional income stream for the church. The lavatory block under the portico is
entered via a new Portland stone staircase at the south west corner of the church. This staircase can be accessed either internally, from the south west side of the church, or from a new exterior entrance on the south west side of the church into the church yard, next to the large metal gates on to St George’s Street. Those who remember the rickety staircase to the old lavatories will notice a great improvement.

The green room/large meeting room provides greatly improved facilities for musicians and other users of the church, who up to now have had to manage in the cramped conditions of the vestry and choir vestry. This room will also be used for all larger church meetings, PCC meetings, and the Little Dragons Sunday School.

The restaurant area will include a bar which will serve interval drinks during concerts, and a seated dining area for up to 150 covers. The restaurant will be open weekdays, Monday to Friday only. On Saturdays the space will be available for private hire and wedding receptions, which we hope will increase St George’s attraction as a wedding venue. On Sundays, the space will be used to serve drinks when we have refreshments following the service in church.

We were lucky with the space in terms of its good headroom. A lot of undercrofts and crypts were built with low ceiling heights and left unfinished. Our vaulted ceiling was plastered back in 1724 and well finished; again, leading us to believe the space was built to be occupied, and not just to be used as storage vaults.

So, in 2019, after a mere two hundred and ninety-five years, the undercroft of St George’s Church will for the first time become an integral part of the body of the Church, and in its own way, help the church to continue to profess the Gospel of Christ.
Prisons Week was collected and compiled largely by Sarah Jane Vernon of our church. It has been circulated far beyond the central London churches, even overseas, and very well received. It contains not only prayers, readings and reflections for prisoners, families, prison staff, victims of crime and the prison system, but information which will be useful to lay and ordained people for the whole year, rather than just one week in October.

At the 11.00am Sung Eucharist at St George’s on 14th October 2018, members of the Prisons Mission team read a specially selected Epistle, presented relevant Prayers and Intercessions and were available to answer questions and discuss issues. John Plummer used the sermon slot to describe the conditions inside one of London’s huge Victorian prisons. He quoted several very senior establishment figures, such as General Lord Ramsbotham and Dame Anne Owers, when serving as HM Chief Inspectors of Prisons. They had found the prisons they inspected, including this one, to be: “dirty, dangerous, Dickensian, vermin infested, violent, overcrowded, foul smelling and understaffed”.

He argued that there is too little public awareness of the shameful state of our prisons. The loss of liberty and removal from all that is familiar is a very real punishment. This is compounded by incarceration within overcrowded and understaffed prisons, which are also unsafe and dirty. There seems to be quite widespread public agreement that prisons must be clean, safe and well staffed, if there is to be any realistic prospect of them becoming the bases from which some very troubled men, women and children can begin the process of recovery and rehabilitation. It is clear that suitably trained and supported volunteers can play a small, but worthwhile part in bringing the vital element of hope into the lives of some very vulnerable, damaged and lonely prisoners.

During Prisons Week we focus upon and pray for all concerned with this work.
NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

The demand for additional volunteers continues to grow. This is partly due to the recognition of the value of Prisons Mission volunteers, but also because the crisis in British prisons is more openly acknowledged. The multi-faith Chaplaincy Teams of HMPs Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs - for men and youths, and HMP and Young Offenders Institution Bronzefield - for women and girls, as well as the Detention Centre at Heathrow, want more volunteers to undertake regular work with them.

In our efforts to meet some of this increasing demand, we have published a new Prisons Mission Volunteer Recruitment leaflet. This is available at our church, or via the CTiW website. The leaflet summarises the wide variety of activities within prisons, for which volunteers are required. It also outlines some of the jobs to be done by people interested in this ministry, but unable to commit to regular time inside a prison, for family, work, or other reasons. These include becoming a Prisoner’s Penfriend, or joining a professional specialist group to counsel discharged prisoners.

When potential volunteers have discussed the opportunities and challenges with a well established member of the Prisons Mission team, and wish to go further, exploratory visits are arranged to tour one of the prisons. Many quite worldly people are deeply disturbed when they go inside a prison for the first time. Freddie de Sibert, of our church, commented after visiting HMP Wormwood Scrubs that; “the prison was shockingly dirty, loud and animal like. I can now well and truly understand your horror at the conditions in which we keep people we expect to discipline, adjust to society and return to life outside”. Becoming a Prisons Mission volunteer is not like visiting patients in a hospital. Prisons are hostile, strange and hidden places, which contain unfamiliar and often distressed people. But, there are safe and interesting activities which are genuinely valued by both chaplains and prisoners, as well as rewarding for volunteers. Further information is available from the Coordinator:

John Plummer
(johnplummer.audax@gmail.com).

The Koestler Trust is the UK’s leading prison arts charity. We play a vital part in the rehabilitative journey offered to prisoners and ex-prisoners to transform their lives through participation in the arts. For more information visit www.koestlertrust.org.uk or tweet @koestlertrust

MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINS.

Away Day

Our Prisons Mission organised a very unusual event last month. The entire multi-faith Chaplaincy Team of HMP Wormwood Scrubs attended their first ever off site Away Day. Twenty one members of the team came to St Martin in the Fields. The Managing Chaplain is a Muslim Imam and the group included Hindu, Sikh, Islamic and Jewish ordained and lay leaders, as well as representatives of the main Christian denominations.

Prison chaplains have very demanding and stressful jobs. In addition to the obvious tasks of conducting worship, prayer, teaching and services for each of the faith groups among the inmates, they are also called upon to support, counsel, and advise prisoners who are often distressed. In the outside world, a priest of any faith will expect some members of the average congregation to be worried about family, work, health or other matters. In prison, nearly every single inmate, man, woman, or child, is frequently desperately anxious, fearful, distressed, angry, depressed, remorseful, and many other emotions, sometimes simultaneously. The chaplains are called on by and about inmates who self-harm, are
thought to be suicidal, and they also make daily visits to all those who are segregated for their own safety, or for punishment. Family members call the chaplaincy office when they are worried about an inmate being bullied, or thought to be sick or using drugs. Chaplains are also involved with bereavements both inside and outside the prison. At Wormwood Scrubs there have been four suicides and one murder so far this year. Such incidents cause ripples of anger and tension far beyond those directly affected.

The prison holds 1,200 men and youths aged 18-24, including those remanded while awaiting trial or sentence, as well as those serving custodial sentences. The chaplains are also responsible for the pastoral care of the 300 plus officers and staff of the prison.

Prison chaplains are inclined to operate with a surprising degree of isolation and detachment from their “parent” church, temple, or mosque. For example, Christian chaplains are not regarded as part of their church’s communications and management structure, are not on its pay-roll, or within the housing and pension schemes. Bishops occasionally attend the prison chapel for the Introduction of a new chaplain, or to preach at a Christmas Day service. In these circumstances, it is not surprising that chaplains are inclined to relate more closely with the management of the prison, than with churches outside the walls.

The job is such that chaplains tend to rush from one crisis to another and from one distressed inmate to the next. They seldom have an opportunity to plan ahead, or to sit together to think about their objectives and how best these might be achieved in the difficult prevailing environment. The chaplains of different faiths do not often exchange ideas, learning, or experiences with each other. Each one knows when he, or she, is responsible for the long list of duties and essential tasks, which are shared out across all faiths, but little else.

The first purpose of our Prisons Mission is to support the multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy Teams and to provide, through our volunteers, the services they identify and need. After many discussions with chaplains, we formed the view that an Away Day for all of them together would be a substantial benefit. Rev Richard Carter of St Martin-in-the-Fields, another very active Prisons Mission church agreed with this and we decided to be co-hosts. The Away Day took place in the comfortable church meeting rooms, which are in stark contrast to the noisy and crowded chaplaincy offices and began with a guided tour of the whole complex establishment.

Richard led a Christian prayer while the party was in the church and was promptly followed by extemporary prayers led by the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu chaplains. The chaplains were told of the very large and effective work of The Connections in addressing the needs of the homeless, and rough sleepers and learned more about the wide range of activities which are part of the everyday life of this very busy church. The chaplains were given lunch and had the use of rooms for a private meeting in the afternoon. The group found the Away Day to be very productive and a valuable learning experience and were very generous in their thanks to the co-hosts. The next step is that the Senior Management Team of the whole prison, of which the Managing Chaplain is a member, is to ask the co-hosts to allow them to hold an Away Day with us.

Caged Feathers
HM Prison Send

Christmas at St George’s

Thursday 6th December
7.00pm
Handel’s Messiah
(for details see page 3)

Tuesday 11th December
7.00pm
Grosvenor Chapel: Community Carol Service

Sunday 16th December
6.00pm
Parish Carol Service

Monday 24th December
Christmas Eve
4.30pm
Solemn First Vigil Mass of Christmas for families & children
11.00pm
Carols
(at Grosvenor Chapel)
11.30pm
Midnight Mass
(at Grosvenor Chapel)

Tuesday 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY
11.00am Sung Eucharist

All services and events take place at St George’s Church unless otherwise indicated.
CIVIL TRUSTEES

At their meeting on 26th September 2018, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £46,190 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

- Shakespeare Schools Foundation
- Listening Books
- Church Homeless Trust
- The Food Chain
- Depaul UK
- Cardinal Hume Centre
- St John’s Hospice
- Octavia Foundation
- Mousetrap Theatre Projects
- WLM Seymour Place
- St George’s School
- St George’s Hanover Square - Refreshment Coupon Scheme

The next meeting of the Civil Trustees will be on Wednesday 28th November (application deadline: Monday 12th November). A further meeting will be held in February/March 2019.

ECCLESIASTICAL TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Ecclesiastical Trustees will be held on Thursday 29th November (application deadline: Monday 12th November)

Shirley Vaughan

Clerk to the Trustees
PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE
Charity No: 1134811

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